

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SPM-01 SCI-06 IO-14 HEW-08

AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 CEQ-02 EPA-04 DRC-01 /138 W

----- 049887

R 241020Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9968

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 6863

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, IV

SUBJECT: 14TH CONFERENCE OF SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
(SID)

1. SUMMARY. AUGUST 12 THRU 16 ABIDJAN WAS HOST TO SOME 800 DELEGATES TO THE 14TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (SID). THE DELEGATES WERE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR PRAISE FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND HOSPITALITY OF THE IVORY COAST SID CHAPTER. WHILE REACTIONS TO THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS WERE MIXED, THE CONFERENCE AS A WHOLE CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL.
END SUMMARY

2. THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE WAS "CONFRONTATION OR COOPERATION?" AND INCLUDED ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS ON: A. PSYCHOLOGICAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT; B. DOES THE WORLD NEED A GLOBAL POPULATION POLICY?; C. ARE ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMPATIBLE?; D. AVAILABLE MINERAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE SEABEDS; E. ENERGY CRISIS; F. NEW PERSPECTIVES IN RURAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT; G. INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENTS OF MANPOWER AND INDUSTRIAL LOCATION POLICY; H. EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN A CHANGING AND INTERDEPENDENT WORLD; I. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - AN INDISPENSABLE TOOL FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; J. GEOGRAPHIC AND ELECTORIAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SPECIAL EVENING SESSI9NS WERE DEVOTED TO;
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MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEER , WOMEN IN

DEVELOPMENT.

3. AMONG THE PROMINENT AMERICAN PERSONALITIES WHO PARTICIPATED WERE: AMBASSADOR EDWIN MARTIN (WHO SPOKE IN PLENARY ABOUT WORLD FOOD PROBLEMS); FORMER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ORVILLE FREEMAN (WHO PARTICIPATED ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS PANEL); IRVING FRIEDMAN, FORMER SENIOR IBRD OFFICIAL, (WHO CHAIRED MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS SESSION); ESTHER PETERSON, FORMER CONSUMER AFFAIRS ADVISOR. EMBASSY, PURSUANT TO DEPARTMENT OR INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS, ARRANGED APPOINTMENTS FOR A NUMBER OF US SID PARTICIPANTS. IN PARTICULAR, ORVILLE FREEMAN SAW MINISTERS OF PLAN, AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE; AMBASSADOR MARTIN MET WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; MRS. PETERSON MET WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

4. SID SOCIAL SCHEDULE WAS VERY FULL AND IVORY COAST CHAPTER DID OUTSTANDING JOB OF ORGANIZING RECEPTIONS, DINNERS AND EXCURSIONS. AMBASSADOR HOSTED RECEPTION FOR APPROXIMATELY 75 SID AND IVORIAN VIPS.

5. COMMENT: GOIC IS TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE AS CONFERENCE HOST. INFORMAL EMBASSY SURVEY OF PARTICIPANT REACTIONS INDICATED THAT ENERGY CRISIS, PSYCHOLOGICAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT, POPULATION ROUNDTABLES AND MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS SPECIAL SESSION RECEIVED HIGH MARKS. OTHER ROUNDTABLES AND SPECIAL SESSIONS DESCRIBED AS FAIR TO GOOD WITH MAIN CRITICISMS BEING: TOO MANY "SET PIECES.", LACK OF DIALOGUE, LACK OF FOCUS, AND "UN-TYPE ATMOSPHERE." POSTMORTEM FURTHER INDICATES THAT THERE IS CONCERN REGARDING DECLINE IN RELATIVE NUMBER OF SID MEMBERS FROM LDCS; PRESENTLY ONLY ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF SID MEMBERS ARE FROM LDCS WITH BALANCE FROM DCs. ALSO CONSENSUS WAS THAT DISCUSSION SHOULD BE RAISED FROM GENERAL TO EXPERT LEVEL TO SHARPEN FOCUS OF DEBATE AND EXPAND INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, HOWEVER, WHILE NOT AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS, SID CONFERENCE ACHIEVED ITS MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF BRINGING TOGETHER DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS FOR A FRANK, INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MAJOR ISSUES FACING DEVELOPING NATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY, POPULATION, MEETINGS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ABIDJA06863
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740234-0867
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740820/aaaaaqzp.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAR 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <24 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 14TH CONFERENCE OF SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (SID)
TAGS: EGEN, EAID, IV, ABIDJAN, SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005